ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A variable resolution decoder of the present
invention decodes image data compressed with a compression
5   method such as MPEG-2 supporting interlaced scanning. The
decoder performs variable decoding and inverse
quantization on the compressed image data and then checks
a DCT mode of a frame, performs inverse discrete cosine
transform in 4 by 8 pixels when the mode is a DCT mode,
10   acquires image data of full resolution for interlaced
scanning in a vertical direction, and thins the image
data, thereby performing image reduction of the image data
during decoding with field information maintained. The
decoder comprises means for performing reduction in a DCT
15   area for resolution of image data in a horizontal
direction and means for performing reduction in a pixel
area for resolution of image data in a vertical direction.